

LIONS FOUNDATION OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC.  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
January 21, 2023 10:00 am  
Via Zoom

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by President Mark Western.

- Present: President Mark Western, Secretary Janice Sowokinos, Treasurer PDG Steve Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lynn Grabow, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Rick Stark, Jed Geer, Milton Ota, PCC Kevin Bean, DG Jeanette Bean, PDG Gary Morel, PDG Kathy Boe, Doug Rothe, PDG Mac Beaudry, and Executive Director Lois Reiersen,
- Absent: Vice President Kristi Swenson
- Guests: Derek Johnson and Kate Lea from Fargo Lions

President Western led the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. A quorum was established.

**Secretary's Minutes:** Motion was made by Milton and seconded by Rick to approve the October 2022 minutes as presented by e-mail. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Steve Johnson presented the Treasurer's report.

- a. The balance in the Operating Fund at Gate City Bank was \$156,022.59 at the end of this quarter. The operating fund includes these categories:

Administrative fund	\$ 1,993.45
Newsletter fund	\$7,485.64
Pending investment fund	\$53,788.57
Vision Grant Fund	\$56,097.22
Traditional grant funds	\$17,155.36
Sight4Kids	\$16,358.36
- b. The amount available for traditional grants on 1/21/2023 is \$4288.84.
- c. Investment funds (Ameriprise) have recovered slightly. On December 31, 2022, the value was \$334,570.21, up from \$317,870.81 on September 30.
- d. The treasurer's report was filed.

**Fargo Lions Clubs Inquiry**

Kate Lea and Derek Johnson reported on the status of requests for vision services in the Fargo area. The Fargo Lions Club is spending \$900 to \$1000 per month for vision exams and glasses; they anticipate needing \$2000 per month in the near future. A meeting was held with other Fargo area clubs to determine how clubs can help meet this need. Mark proposed an ad hoc committee to determine how the foundation can help with regional vision assistance issues; he appointed Steve Johnson, Kathy Boe, Kevin Bean, and Jed Geer. This committee will present a proposal at the next meeting.

**Old Business**

**Audit review of LFND** – Jed Geer has delivered material needed for an audit review to Frontier Payroll. The review should be done by the end of January. There is no quote for the cost, but it is expected to be well within the budgeted amount.

Steve proposed that the review include Eyeglass Recycling, Sight4Kids, and Video Magnifier programs. Steve and Jed will ask that available materials relating to these programs be added to the review process. Five years of documents will be requested. The cost for adding these programs to the review is not known.

**The 990 form** – Information for filing the 990 form has been submitted to Laura Rider Adair. The cost for submitting the form will be about \$2000.

**Lions awards/member recognition** – Kristi Swenson will discuss donor recognition at a future meeting.

### **New business**

**Grant applications** – Traditional grants were submitted by Williston Korner and Fargo Lions. Lois reported that both meet eligibility criteria. Motion was made by Steve and seconded by Kevin to approve both requests. Motion passed.

Lois reported that vision grant applications were received from North Star, Harvey, and New England Lions Clubs and all meet the eligibility criteria. Motion by Doug and Milton to approve all three requests. Motion passed.

**Reimbursement of expenses** – Steve proposed changes to reimbursement policy:

1. Remove formal linkages between LCI “Rules of Audit” and reimbursement policies of NFND; this requires a change in by-laws. Motion was made by Mac and seconded to Lynn to propose this change in the by-laws at the next convention.
2. Remove references in by-laws to Eye Bank. Add that consideration should be given to organizations sharing travel expenses. Motion was made by Steve and seconded by Rick that this change be proposed.
3. There is an unwritten policy that there is no travel reimbursement for meetings held in conjunction with the state convention. Motion made by Steve and seconded by Kathy that this subject be dealt with in the “Policies and Procedures. Motion passed.
4. Add executive director and 3 program managers to the list of those eligible for travel reimbursements. Motion made by Steve and seconded by Mac to add these. Motion passed.
5. A motion was made by Jed and seconded by Kevin to update the LFND expense reimbursement to these rates: Vehicle mileage, \$.50 per mile; lodging up to \$100 per night; meals maximum \$50 per day and \$25 per meal. Motion passed.

**Hearing aid donations** – Kirk Tingum presented a letter relating to whether the LFND will accept hearing aid donations and provide a receipt for a charitable donation. Hearing aids would be forwarded to another organization. Mark will follow up with Kirk and make a recommendation to the board.

**Video magnifier program** – Steve Johnson presented the idea that there might be a benefit to having the video magnifier program in a separate foundation. Janice Sowokinos noted that the cash-on-hand has grown from \$68k to \$71k in three months and will continue to grow due to the fact that all machines are paid for. This much cash shouldn’t be needed because the number of machines in storage, namely 22 video magnifiers and 5 SARA-CE, is more than enough to meet the demand.

**Executive Director position** -- Lois will leave this position when she becomes a board member in the next term. Lois was approached by someone interested in the job. The by-laws don’t specify how the executive director is chosen; the consensus was that the applicant should write a letter of application to present at the April board meeting.

### **Reports**

**Executive director report** –

1. Lois reported that the LFND web site is being used. She is referring requests for information based on geography.
2. The newsletter hard copy list will be reviewed. The newsletters in December and January have been 8 pages instead of 16 and a lot of editing had to be done. Lois will be looking at newsletter cost breakdown.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- a. April 29, 2023 in Bismarck
- b. July 29, 2023 in Bismarck

**Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Sowokinos, Secretary